



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## **Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

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The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Kaine:

As you know, the Senate of Virginia and the House of Delegates have recently passed two important bills that would expand the death penalty in Virginia. I am writing to encourage you to sign these bills into law.

The first of these bills, SB1288 and HB2348, would repeal the so called triggerman rule. This legislation provides that accessories to capital murder may also be eligible for the death penalty in addition to the actual perpetrator.

The second of these bills, SB1116 and HB 2347 would extend the death penalty to persons that participate in the willful, deliberate and premeditated killing of any witness under subpoena in a criminal case for the purpose of interfering with the person's duties in such case.

Both of these bills were included in my 2007 Legislative Agenda. My support for these bills arose out of numerous conversations I have had over the past year with law enforcement officials and Commonwealth's Attorneys who feel that these bills would be an important deterrent to crime, in particular, to gang related crimes that are increasing at a rapid rate in many parts of our state.

Once again, I encourage you to sign these bills when they reach your desk. They represent a logical and appropriate extension of the death penalty to a group of killers whose actions warrant the maximum punishment allowed by law.

Very Truly Yours

  
**WILLIAM T. BOLLING**  
Lieutenant Governor  
Commonwealth of Virginia